



PERSBERICHT

Dilemma after restoration of a painting by Dutch master

From 17 July, a recently restored painting by Bartholomeus van der Helst will be added to the exhibition "Group Portraits of the 17th Century" in the Amsterdam Museum wing in the Hermitage Amsterdam. During the restoration of Van der Helst's 1653 painting "Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen", a third boy was found in the painting. The painting will be presented with extensive explanations of the restoration in honor of the Van der Helst year, in 2020 it will be exactly 350 years ago that the Dutch master died, together with the original silver objects depicted in the painting.

Boy found

The second phase in the restoration of "Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen" by Van der Helst from 1653 was recently completed. After the removal of old overpaintings, the remains of a full-length boy have emerged on the right. His hat, feet and legs are visible. It was known from copies of the original painting that this third boy must be there, but only half of the figure has been preserved. Restorers, curators and experts are now faced with the question: What next? Leave it as it is or reconstruct the boy? From 17 July, the visitor will be taken along with the painting in the exhibition in the choices and questions surrounding the restoration.

Silver

The painting 'Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen' by Van der Helst from 1653, which was enormously restored by restoration, is presented in the exhibition 'Group portraits of the 17th century' together with the original silver objects with which the gentlemen in the painting for Bartholomeus van der Helst posed for their group portrait. It concerns a silver drinking horn, silver chain and a silver staff of the St. Sebastian or Archers Guild from about 1520. "The restoration makes the silver on the canvas stand out even better. By presenting the original silver objects next to the painting, it is only in the Van der Helst year that it becomes really clear how a great painter Van der Helst was," says curator of the Amsterdam Museum Judith van Gent. "It is special for visitors to be able to see the original silver objects in the exhibition next to the painting and to compare them with the way in which Van der Helst has depicted them on the canvas."

The presentation of the painting 'Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen' by Bartholomeus van der Helst can be seen from 17 July in the permanent exhibition "Group portraits of the 17th century" in the Amsterdam Museum wing of the Hermitage Amsterdam.

Note for editors / not for publication: If you have any questions or requests, please contact Kim Koopman (press office) via k.koopman@amsterdammuseum.nl or 06 - 22 92 77 29. You can download the photos below and more images in high-res via the following link: <https://we.tl/t-k7H6ln9RNq>



Painting 'Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen' by Bartholomeus van der Helst (1653) before restoration. Photo: Amsterdam Museum



Detail of painting before restoration. Photo: Amsterdam Museum.



Painting 'Overlieden van de Handboogdoelen' by Bartholomeus van der Helst (1653) after restoration in 2019. Photo: Amsterdam Museum, Niels de Haan.



Detail of painting after restauratie in 2019. Photo: Amsterdam Museum, Niels de Haan.



Zilveren staf zilveren keten en zilveren drinkhoorn van het St. Sebastiaans- of Handboogschuttersgilde uit ongeveer 1520. Foto's Amsterdam Museum